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TENSIONS WITHIN THE SOVIET ORBIT

TITOISM POSSIBLE IN THE SATELLITES AND CHINA -- Asuncion, La Union, 2 Sep 53

Titoism is the mortal disease which seems to be undermining the Soviet organism. Titoism affects the prospects of future relations among the subjugated nations, called People's Democracies in Communist jargon. Tito's defiance, his visit to London, and his skillful flirting with the West, along with the revolt of students, workers, and soldiers in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, and Poland, help picture the growing disillusionment of the Satellites. The USSR has not honored its promises to them but has pushed them into bloody wars (China suffered a million casualties in the Korean conflict), or has robbed them of their food supplies (Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland), giving them in return an almost intolerable oppression.

An early collapse of the political structure within the Iron Curtain is not to be expected because the Russian tanks and the MGB will ruthlessly crush any revolt. The Russians are showing symptoms of fear, despite their great power and extensive system of control. Officers who have fled to the West speak of the nervous tension within the Red Army and liken this feeling to sitting on an anthill.

Communism is increasingly unpopular in the Satellites despite the indoctrination and propaganda carried on by the Russians, and by collaborationists like Grotewohl and Zapotocky. Yesterday, serious uprisings were reported in East Germany; workers were killed by Russian armored vehicles, and hungry women and children were forbidden to go to the Allied Sector of Berlin for free food. The experiment of the Communist way of life has definitely proved a total failure in civilized Europe.

Satellite China continues to show dissatisfaction. Mao Tse-tung is worried because his people will not stomach the Korean triumph which, at best, may be a Pyrrhic victory. He has stated that his country needs more help from the USSR and is beginning to put a price tag on his cooperation. Kim Il-sung has gone to Moscow to tell Malenkov that China has not received the food, machinery, and money promised by the two agreements concluded with the Kremlin, and that China is displeased at being denied the bombers she has been demanding continuously for 3 years.

British commercial circles, anxious to intensify their trade with Communist China, have commented on these facts and are prepared to take advantage of any opportunity to achieve the pet British ambition of making China one of its main markets.

The question of great interest is whether Mao Tse-tung's new demands are symptomatic of an advanced state of Titoism in the largest Satellite of the USSR. -- G

CONTRADICTIONARY POLICIES WITHIN THE SOVIET ORBIT -- Bilbao, La Gaceta del Norte, 16 Aug 53

The Prague and Berlin revolts are not the only cause of our interest in the developments inside the USSR and its Satellites. A marked difference in policy toward the various countries has begun to appear since the death of Stalin. While Stalin lived, the program for his governments was the same: complete Sovietization of each government. Present Soviet policy, however, allows a temporary reform in Czechoslovakia, which reduces income to one fifth and dissolves the smallest savings accounts, although a campaign for private savings is being conducted in the USSR. East Germany confesses, belatedly, that Soviet policy has failed

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miserably. A diametrically opposed policy of de-Sovietization is now in effect, in contrast to the extreme policy in the other Satellite countries. More liberality in the GDR is contrasted by greater hardship in Czechoslovakia.

The variance of Soviet policy is an admission that Communism does not afford a solution to all the economic and political problems of a country, and that Communism is not the sole road to be followed, but must be made secondary to other ends and permit the use of other remedies. The disparity of policy is evidence of a break in what is called the Soviet bloc, and it makes us wonder if it is possible simultaneously to have free trade with the West in the countries of GDR and Austria, and a commercially closed empire in Poland, Hungary, or Rumania, while all these countries are trading with each other. Will it be possible to socialize agriculture on one side, and de-Sovietize it in a neighboring country? The uprisings in Prague and Berlin are of the greatest importance in the history of subjugated Europe, but a multiple policy for Soviet orbit countries may be even more significant. -- Fernando Vela

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